

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /003 R

66603

DRAFTED BY: NEA/EGY:GNANDERSON

APPROVED BY: NEA/EGY:MSTERNER

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R 051509Z DEC 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT CAIRO

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ALGIERS AMMAN BAGHDAD
JERUSALEM JIDDA KUWAIT MOSCOW TEL AVIV TRIPOLI TUNIS FROM
BEIRUT DEC 3

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BEIRUT 13717

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

EO 11652:N/A, DECONTROL 12/3/74

TAGS: PINS, XF

SUBJECT: INCREASE IN PUBLIC CAUTION EXERCISED BY FEDAYEEN
LEADERSHIP

REF: BEIRUT 13576 (NOTAL)

1. WE HAVE LEARNED FROM RELIABLE SOURCES WHY FATAH'S
SALAH KHALAF, IN DELIVERING HIS LONG SPEECH HERE
NOV 27 (PARAS 3 AND 4 REFTEL), WAS SO CAREFUL TO
BLEND INTO IT CURIOUS MIXTURE OF INTRANSIGENT,
DOCTRINAIRE BOMBAST TYPICAL OF FEDAYEEN "REVOLUTIONACY"
JARGON (E.G., REFERENCES TO NEED FOR LONG-TERM POPULAR
LIBERATION WAR; TOTAL LIBERATION OF PALESTINE;
REJECTION OF KING HUSSEIN; SOLIDARITY AMONG PALESTINIAN
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"MASSES"; ETC.) AND ELEMENTS OF RATHER STARTLING

PRAGMATISM (E.G., DESIRABILITY OF ACCEPTING GOVT-IN-EXILE AND EVEN ME SETTLEMENT BASED ON SC RES 242 AS PARTIAL, "TACTICAL" GAIN FOR FEDAYEEN MOVEMENT; WISDOM OF PLAYING ALONG WITH ARAB GOVTS AND SOVS IN SEARCH FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT; AND CALL FOR RECOGNITION OF "NEW REALITIS" IN FORMULATING FEDAYEEN POLICY RE FORTHCOMING PEACE CONFERENCE). ON ENTERING AUDITORIUM AT BEIRUT'S ARAB UNIVERSITY NOV WUN KHALAF FOUND IT PACKED WITH OVER 1,000 FEDAYEEN DIE-HARDS (MANY OF THEM FROM HIS OWN ORGANIZATION) WHO BOOED HIM ROUNDLY WHEN HE ROSE TO SPEAK. AS RESULT, HE FELT OBLIGED TO BEGIN HIS REMARKS WITH CUSTOMARY PALESTINIAN SLOGANS OUT OF DUE REGARD FOR HIS OWN SAFETY. IT WAS ONLY AFTER SOME 400 LOYAL FATAH MEMBERS HAD BEEN RUSHED TO SCENE THAT HE ENDED SPEECH WITH CAUTIOUS, ALBEIT UNMISTAKABLE, PITCH FOR EXERCISE OF "REALISM" AND RESTRAINT BY PALESTINIANS AT PRESENT "DELICATE PERIOD IN ME AFFAIRS.

2. IN PAST WEEK WE HAVE NOTICED SIMILAR CAUTION DISPLAYED BY "ARAFAT AND CO. IN THEIR PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS. 'ARAFT, FOR EXAMPLE, IN PRESS CONFERENCE REPORTED BY AFP FROM LIBYA DEC 3, COUPLED HIS ASSERTION THAT FEDAYEEN MOVEMENT "HAS ACCEPTED CREATION OF A PALESTINIAN STATE" WITH PROMISE THAT "ARMED STRUGGLE" AGAINST ISRAEL "WILL CONTINUE UNTIL LIBERATION", REASSURANCE THAT "WE HAVE NOT BEEN FORMALLY NOTIFIED OF ANY SO-CALLED PEACE CONFERENCE", AND DENIGRATION OF KING HUSSEIN'S RIGHT "TO INTERFERE IN AFFAIRS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE". SALAH KHALAF, IN ANOTHER SPEECH DELIVERED HERE DEC. 2 -- FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF VIOLENT DIATRIBE AGAINST "SEAKLINGS" IN PLO LEADERSHIP BY LOCAL PFLP WEEKLY (BEIRUT 13684) -- STUCK CLOSELY TO STANDARD FEDAYEEN PHRASEOLOGY, INVEIGHING AGAINST "CAPITULATIONIST" ARAB REGIMES AND SHOUTING: "WHO DARES SAY WE WANT RECOGNIZE ISRAEL OR SACRIFICE OUR SACRED CAUSE ON NEGOTIATING TABLE?" SA'IQA'S ZOHAYR MUHSEN, IN RECENT INTERVIEW PUBLISHED BY PRO-SYRIAN PAPER HERE, ADMITTED THAT "LARGE MAJORITY OF FEDAYEEN ARE OPPOSED TO CREATION OF PALESTINIAN GOVT-IN-EXILE". ADDED IT IS NOT EASY

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FOR PLO LEADERSHIP TO MAKE UP ITS MIND RE ATTENDANCE AT FORTHCOMING PEACE CONFERENCE, SINCE "IT VERY HARD TO PERSUADE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE ACCEPT ANYTHING LESS THAN THEIR LEGITIMATE HISTORICAL RIGHTS AS EXPRESSED IN UN RESOLUTIONS".

3. COMMENT: WE EXPECT 'ARAFAT AND OTHER FATAH ANDA'IQA LEADERS, AWARE OF RANK-AND-FILE DISCONTENT AND

OPPOSITION OF PFLP WILL BE VERY CAREFUL IN THEIR PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS IN DAYS AHEAD. THIS ALL MORE TRUE SINCE PRESENT TENSION IN AREA, THREATS OF RESUMED FIGHTING, AND UNCERTAINTY OVER PEACE CONFERENCE MAKE FEDAYEEN LEADERS DUBIOUS THAT THERE WILL BE EVEN A WEST BANK/GAZA PALESTINIAN ENTITY WAITING FOR THEM AT END OF LONG, DANGEROUS ROAD. NEVERTHELESS, WE BELIEVE THAT FATAH AND SATQA AND MANY OTHER LEADERS REMAIN PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN PEACE TALKS AND SETTLE FOR RUMP PALESTINIAN ENTITY. WE ALSO BELIEVE THEY WILL QUIETLY CONTINUE CAUTIOUS EFFORTS TO RALLY SUPPORT FOR THEIR VIEWS RATHER THAN ABANDON FIELD COMPLETELY TO HARD-LINERS. EVEN SALAH KHALAF HAS TOLD RELIABLE SOURCE IN PRIVATE THAT HE STILL COMMITTED TO SETTLEMENT EFFORTS AND WOULD NOT BE ADVERSE TO SOME SORT OF AGREEMENT WITH KING HUSSEIN -- NO MATTER WHAT LINE KHALAF MAY TAKE IN PUBLIC.

BUFFUM
UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, EXTREMISTS, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE237868
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/EGY:GNANDERSON
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731243/aaaabfqb.tel
Line Count: 134
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BEIRUT 13576 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27-Sep-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <07-Jan-2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INCREASE IN PUBLIC CAUTION EXERCISED BY FEDAYEEN LEADERSHIP
TAGS: PINS, XF
To: CAIRO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005